Food additives: Celluloses

Published by AGRINFO on 16 Apr 2025

Commission Regulation (EU) 2025/666 […] as regards the use of sodium carboxy methyl cellulose, cellulose gum (E 466) and […] as regards specifications for cellulose (E 460), methyl cellulose (E 461), ethyl cellulose (E 462), hydroxypropyl cellulose (E 463), hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose (E 464), ethyl methyl cellulose (E 465), sodium carboxy methyl cellulose, cellulose gum (E 466), cross-linked sodium carboxy methyl cellulose, cross linked cellulose gum (E 468) and enzymatically hydrolysed carboxy methyl cellulose (E 469)

What is changing and why?

The European Union (EU) has withdrawn its authorisation of sodium carboxy methyl cellulose (cellulose gum, E 466) in dietary foods for infants and babies, and has withdrawn its authorisation to add this substance to nutrients used in foods for infants and young children. It has also amended the specifications for all cellulose additives (E 460–E 466, E 468–E 469), in particular reducing the maximum permitted levels for toxic elements (arsenic, lead, mercury, and cadmium).

Timeline

To allow businesses time to find alternatives to cellulose gum (E 466), its use in dietary foods for infants, babies, and young children, or in nutrients used in these foods, will not be permitted from **27 April 2027**.

The new specifications for cellulose food additives (E 460–E 466, E 468–E 469) apply from **27 October 2025**.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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